their decision either wholly or partially before the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act.

The Government of Karnataka has submitted one proposal in 1992 and two proposals in 1995 for regularisation of Encroachments on forest land and their status is as below:—

S.No.	District	Area (Ha.)	Status
1.	Bijapur	46.80	Rejected as these were post 1980 encroachments.
2.	4 different districts	732.24	Rejected on merit.
3.	19 different districts	17007.2	Approved for diversion of 14,848.83 ha.

No new proposal for regularisation of forest encroachments has been received from Government of Karnataka in 1997 or thereafter.

Forest Dependent Communities in H.P.

3582. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) The total number of Forest Dependent Communities in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) how much forest land is utilised by the said population and whether there is any scheme to rehabilitate them in order to the forest land from degradation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) No survey has been done to assess number of forest dependent communities in Himachal Pradesh but it is estimated that about 90% of rural population is heavily dependent on forests for exercise of usufructs right to timber, water, grazing etc. There is no scheme to rehabilitate them as the local population has specified rights in the designated forests.

Conservation of Forests and Wild Life in Maharashtra

3583. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes taken up by Government in Maharashtra State for conservation of forests. wild life and environment in the State during the last three years; and